

SARAH M. MAYFIELD

Sarah M. Mayfield was a widow with one child. She married Louis Rice Chaffin December 3, 1837, and eight children were born to them. They came to Utah and settled in Cedar City in 1861. They were called to the Muddy in 1867, where he had the first cotton gin in St. Joseph. In 1868 two boys roasting potatoes in a bonfire in back of the Miles home started a blaze which destroyed nineteen homes, the cotton gin and the school house.

—D.U.P. files

JOSEPH S. MURDOCK AND
ELIZABETH HUNTER MUDOCK

Joseph and Elizabeth Hunter Murdock were married in 1854. In 1867 they, with fifty other families, were called to the Muddy Mission. One time, after their arrival, when the father was away from home the boys were sent to break up land some distance away. Their plows and harnesses broke as the land was hard and untillable. After several days they decided to go home; they reached their mother's best friend's house and persuaded her to go home with them. This was truly an answer to the mother's prayer, for that night she had a baby boy born to her and would have been alone.

It was a trial for Elizabeth to feed her family on coarse food, and one night as she mixed the bran bread she couldn't keep back the tears that fell into the mixing pan. It was a bright moonlight night and when she stepped outside heaven seemed very near. She prayed earnestly that they might get better food. At three in the morning a wagon stopped and a man came to the house asking to buy some hay and grain for his horses. Because of the heat he had driven at night. After giving him the feed, Joseph said, "It seems like you are loaded very heavy for these sandy roads. What are you hauling?" He answered, "White flour; you can have all you want for what it cost me." So Joseph and Elizabeth were soon stacking flour in and the next morning they and their friends had real bisquits for breakfast. Elizabeth knew her prayer had been answered.

The desert was a hard place to colonize. Cotton could be raised, lucerne and other sturdy crops, but they were given permission to leave when it was decided the valley was in Nevada. When they left the home, Elizabeth looked back and could see smoke rising from the house. Alva admitted touching a match to it so they couldn't go back. He wanted to go where schools were, and people, and where his mother wouldn't have to work so hard.

—by Ida Kirkham—from D.U.P. book

JOHN AND HANNAH NESLEN SHARP

John Sharp and Hannah Neslen were married in September, 1866. They lived in Salt Lake City for a year before they were called to go

to the Muddy Mission. She fainted at the news; everyone knew of the blistering alkali desert and had no wish to go. But the Sharps answered the call. The family helped her pack a few treasured possessions with the farm implements and food. The company left Salt Lake City the middle of November, 1867, just six weeks after the birth and death of her first baby.

In the party were young missionaries just returned from their labors; President Young had asked them to go along. A number of hasty weddings were performed before the date of departure, among them two daughters of Brigham Young, Mrs. Ellie Empey and Mrs. Rindie Conrad, who had a young baby; a Mrs. Louie Felt, Mrs. Lenora Spencer, and Sam Hill and wife Audrey, who died in confinement after arriving in St. Thomas. From the first there were many amusing phases of the trip. One of the party carried a crate of chickens at the rear of their wagon; when the caravan went down hill or traffic became congested, the tongue of the following wagon would poke into the crate of chickens creating a storm of cackling protest and sometimes furnishing a dinner.

Jolting along over dusty roads was no prescription for a convalescing woman with weary head, tired limbs and night of sleeping in the wagon box. Inadequate food, winds, storm, and fear of Indians was their portion. Yet in spite of sorrow and weariness as the pair sat on the tongue of the wagon in the twilight, John would ask her to sing and she did. After that, life was sweeter to both of them and it lightened their journey. When they camped on Indian Creek, Hannah was suffering from a gathered ear. A severe snow storm came up, and John made her a bed in the wagon box where she bundled her head in a woolen scarf. John was asked to go back and help a family. He wrapped a buffalo robe around himself, and through the snow and sleet he went. Hannah wondered if the wind would blow John and his mules away, but soon she heard him return. He administered to her and the pain stopped and she slept. Next morning there was a foot of snow on the ground; it was a long cold drive through Beaver Canyon.


At Beaver the company camped in the tithing office yard around a log fire. It was raining so hard people from the settlement came and took them into their homes. A Sister Fotheringham came to Hannah and said, "Oh, you dear soul, how sick you look." For several days the travelers had not had a cooked meal, so the dinner was a feast. Afterwards they sat by the crackling fire and kept hot molasses in Hannah's ear. An old settler had given John a medicine chest with Grafenburg pills, porous plaster and sweet niter, whereupon he was known as "Doc. John." They arrived in St. George and was told to lighten their loads. Hannah left her dishes, linen and half her load. She had the experience of tasting sweet potatoes, garden-grown by Sister Lufkin, and she liked them. Their bacon, flour, and dried fruits were getting low. After they had wheat, coffee, flap-jacks, and fermented treacle. Sometimes one of the sisters would say, "Well, what shall we have for supper tonight?" Hannah would reply, "Why, let's

PLACES: Sharon, Windsor, Vt.

To indicate that a child is an ancestor of the person submitting the sheet, place an "X" behind the number pertaining to that child.

HUSBAND					
Born	26 June 1822	Place	Joseph Stacey MURDOCK	Husband	
Chr.		Place	Hamilton, Madison Co., New York	Wife	
Marr.	11 June 1854	Place		Ward	1.
Died		Place		Examiners	2.
Bur.		Place		Stake or Mission	
HUSBAND'S FATHER					
HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES (1)					
WIFE	(5) Eunice SWEET (2.)		Eliza CLARK (3) 11 June 1834 Lane SHARP		
Born	(4) 17 Apr 1839	Place	Pennetta MARDOCK HUNTER		
Chr.		Place	Clarkstown, Clarkmanshire, Scotland		
Died		Place			
Bur.		Place			
WIFE'S FATHER	Robert	Place	HUNTER		
WIFE'S OTHER					
HUSBANDS					
CHILDREN					
SEX M F	List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth Given Names	SURNAME	DAY MONTH YEAR	TOWN	WHERE BORN
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					

SOURCES OF INFORMATION



Joseph Stacy MURDOCK 1822
Elizabeth HUNTER



NECESSARY EXPLANATIONS